



Kids & The Federal Budget

Bruce Lesley, President – First Focus

March 21, 2013

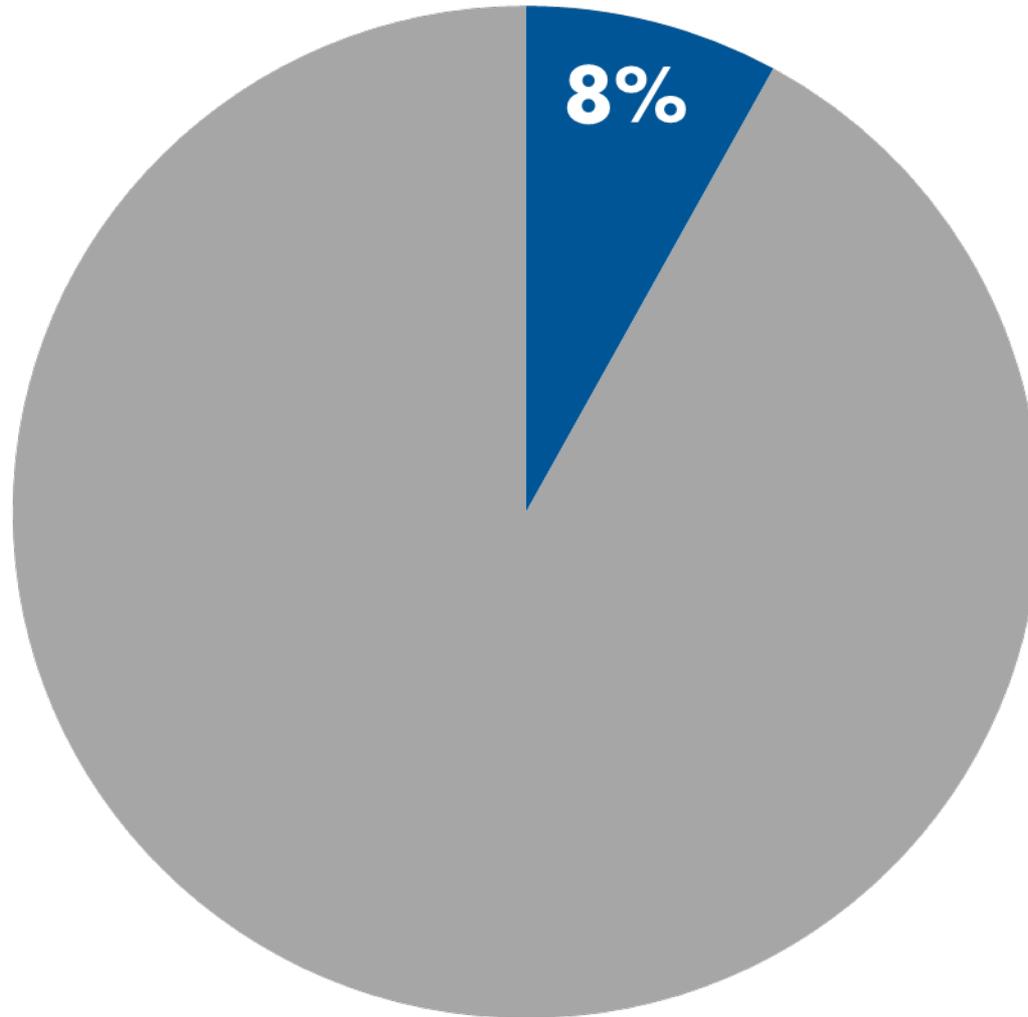


FIRST FOCUS

MAKING CHILDREN & FAMILIES THE PRIORITY



SHARE OF TOTAL FEDERAL SPENDING

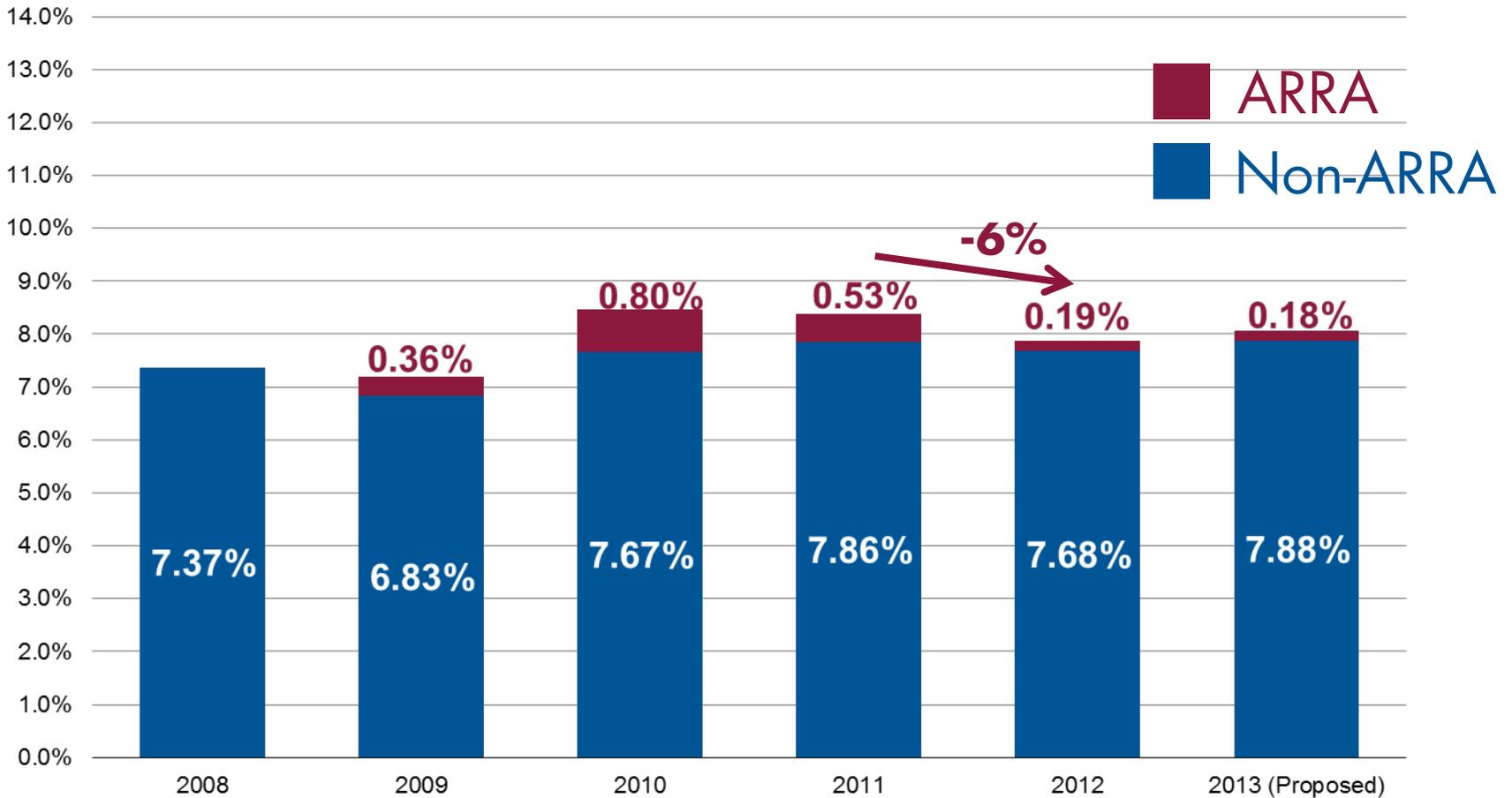




SHARE OF TOTAL FEDERAL SPENDING

The share of the federal budget in 2012 going to children fell more than 6% from 2011.

Total Children's Spending as a Percent of Total Government Spending

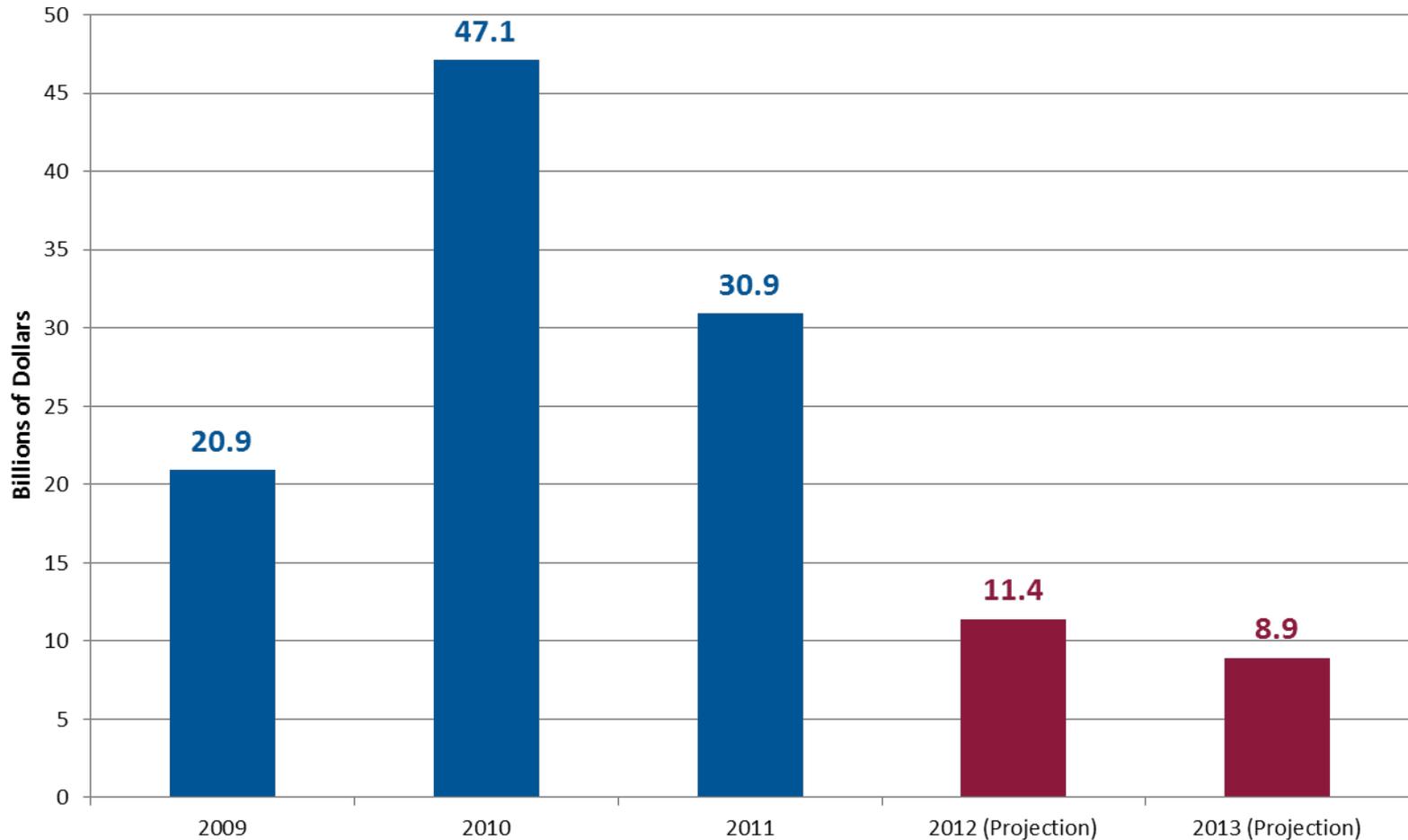




ARRA FUNDING RUNNING OUT

As ARRA funding runs out, many programs are already experiencing a “funding cliff.”

Total ARRA Spending Per Year on Children



FISCAL CLIFF IMPACTS





SEQUESTRATION'S POTENTIAL IMPACT

Kids could lose billions in the next few months because of SEQUESTRATION:

- Across the board automatic spending cuts went into effect on March 1, 2013
- Part 1 = Approximately 5% cut to discretionary areas like education, early childhood, housing, nutrition, etc.
- Part 2 = Even lower long term spending caps
- Medicaid, CHIP, SNAP, TANF, & Child Nutrition are exempt

Education	\$2.1B
Early Childhood	\$596M
Housing	\$588M
Nutrition	\$354M
Health	\$243M
Military Education	\$159M
Child Welfare	\$124M
Safety	\$37M
Total	\$4.2B

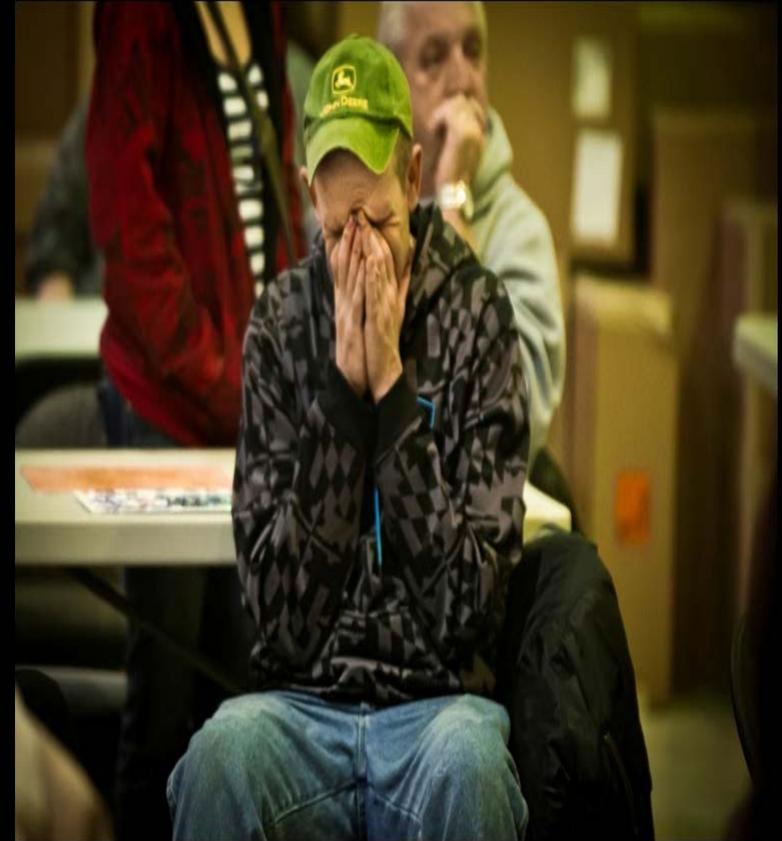


LOOMING ACTIONS THREATEN KIDS

Real World Impact:

- Nearly 7.4 million students affected
- Almost 50,000 education jobs lost
- 1.2 million fewer students served by Title 1
- 296,000 fewer students receiving IDEA services
- 70,000 children would lose Head Start
- 600,000 women, infants, & children could lose WIC nutrition assistance

Photos: 36 Ind. children cut from Head Start programs



Jeremiah Harker could hardly bear to listen as names were called Tuesday night, March 5, 2013, during a Head Start meeting, in Columbus, Ind. that determined who would be eliminated from the program in the wake of Federal financial cutbacks. Harker himself was exempt from being cut, but he said he felt badly for others. (AP Photo/The Republic, Andrew Laker)



LOOMING ACTIONS FOR KIDS

- FY2013 Continuing Resolution
 - Level funds most programs
 - Includes positive investments in Child Nutrition
- FY2014 Budget Resolutions:

House Budget	Senate Budget
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Block grants Medicaid • Defunds the Affordable Care Act making cuts to CHIP • Block grants SNAP • Leaves in place deep cuts to WIC • Extends sequestration cuts and caps • Adds an additional \$600 billion worth of non-defense discretionary cuts • Assumes the end of 2009 improvements to CTC & EITC • Could shift tax burden and require additional mandatory cuts • Reconciliation could mean more cuts to kids 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Protects investments in Medicaid & CHIP • Protects investments in SNAP & WIC • Eliminates sequestration • Cuts an additional \$150 billion from non-defense discretionary funding • Calls for 2009 improvements to CTC & EITC to be made permanent • Calls for increased investment in education and early childhood initiatives

- President Obama?

WHAT DOES THE PUBLIC THINK?



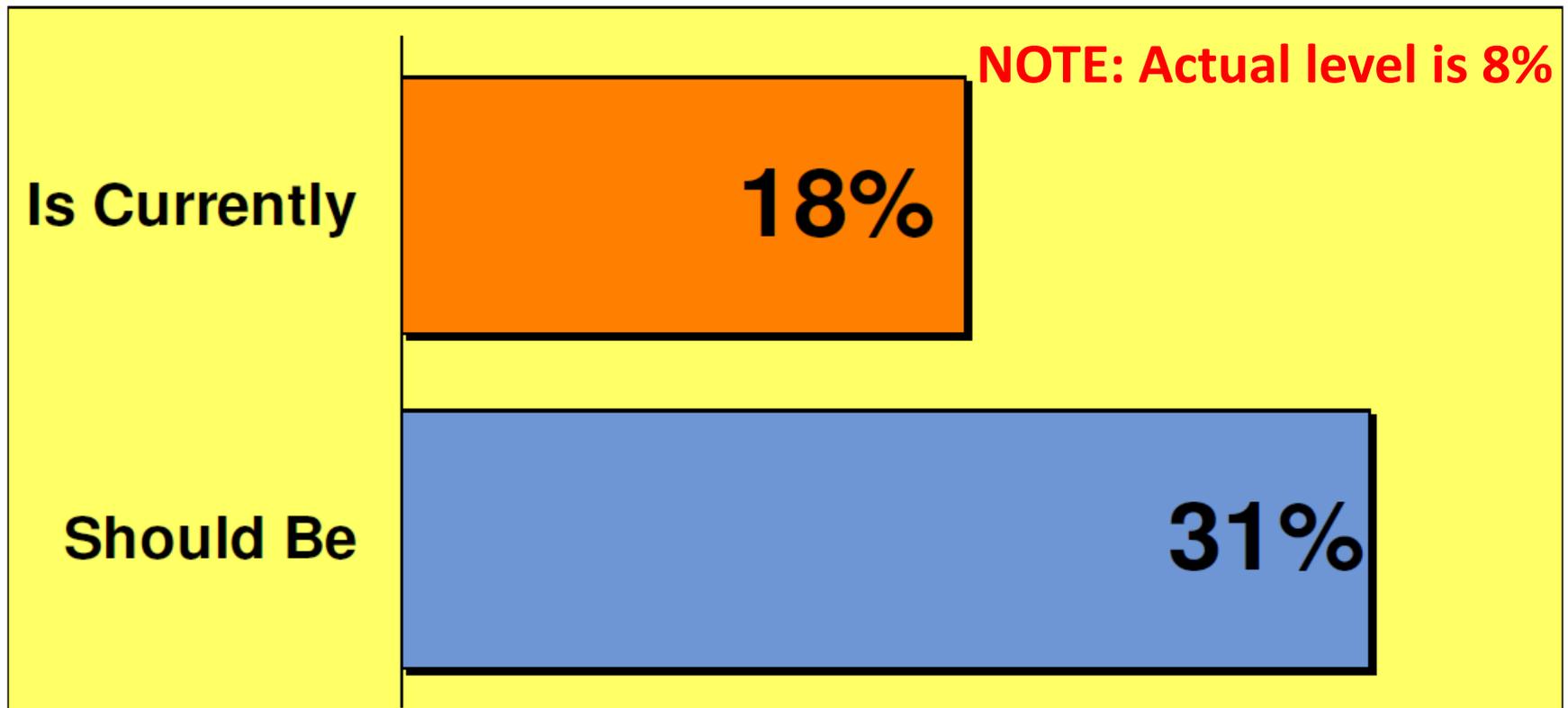
A majority say the last decade has not been beneficial to children.

“Compared to ten years ago, do you think the lives of American children have gotten better, gotten worse, or not changed?”



Children's Portion of the Federal Budget

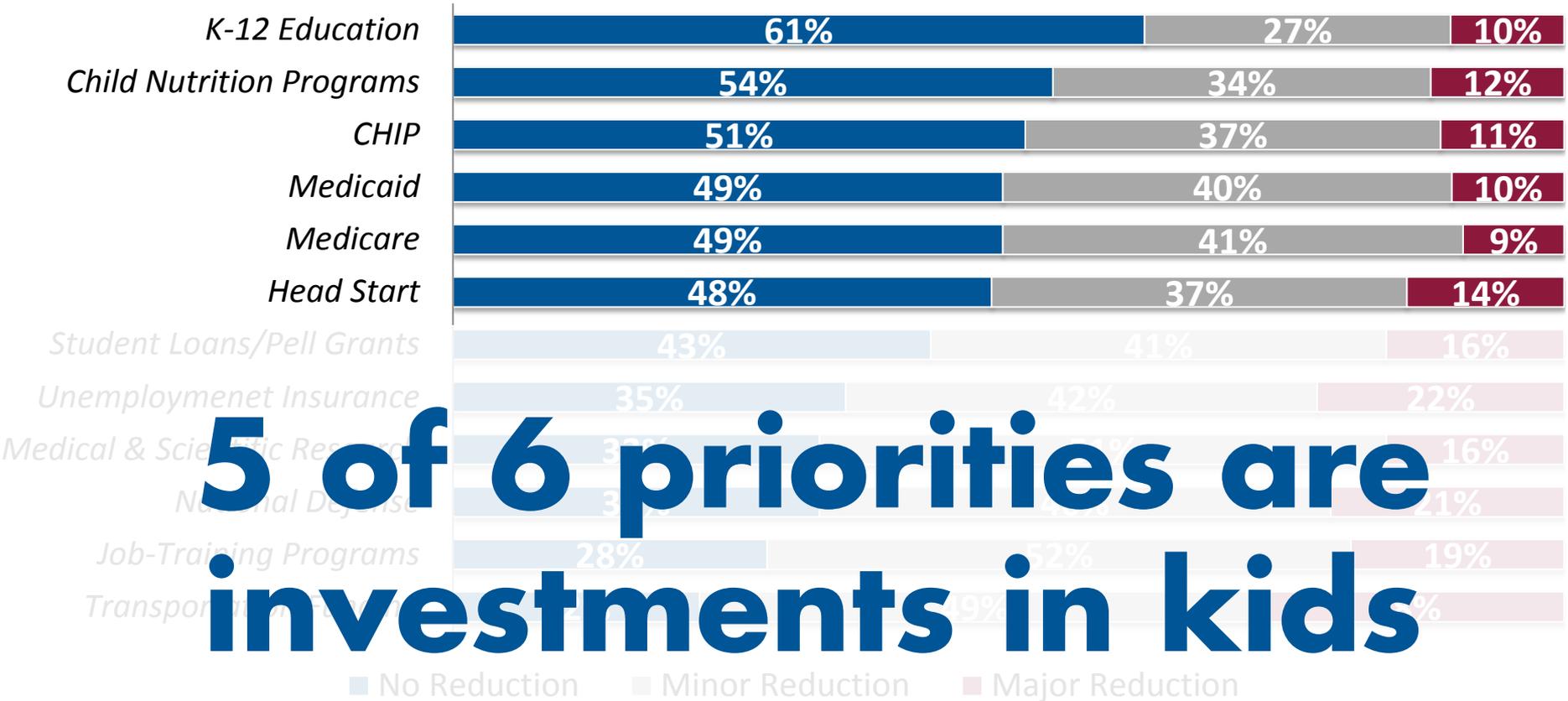
What percent of the federal budget do you believe... devoted to children and programs for children? (Mean Percentage)





MESSAGING THE BUDGET FOR KIDS

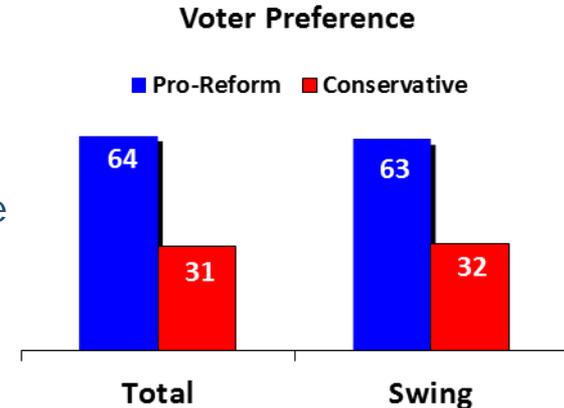
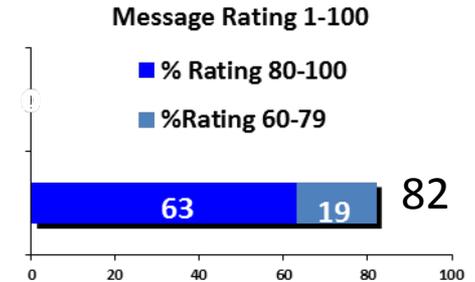
Kids' Programs are voters' priorities:



Making Children a Priority

Investment

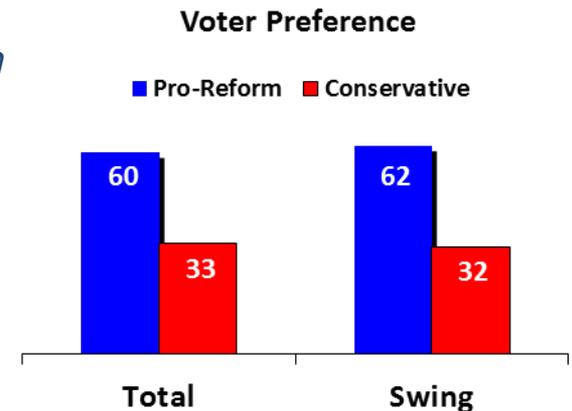
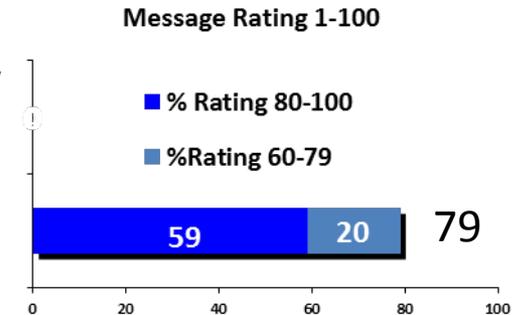
Investing in our children is investing in America. When we help children grow and succeed, we are paving the way for our country's next generation of workers and leaders. *Investing in our children means investing in a world-class education, making sure every child starts kindergarten ready to learn, every teenager who aspires to a college education and is willing to work for it can afford one, and making sure there are jobs waiting for them on the other end. Investing in our children means recognizing that children learn the values of respect and responsibility in strong families and safe communities. And investing in our children means investing in those who are most vulnerable, helping parents in poor communities protect their children from poverty, violence, and drugs; providing mentors and role models so all our nation's teenagers finish high school; and caring for the millions of children who are abused and neglected, so every child stands a chance for a satisfying, productive life. Supporting our children isn't just the right thing to do. It's one of the best investments we can make as a nation.*



Making Children a Priority

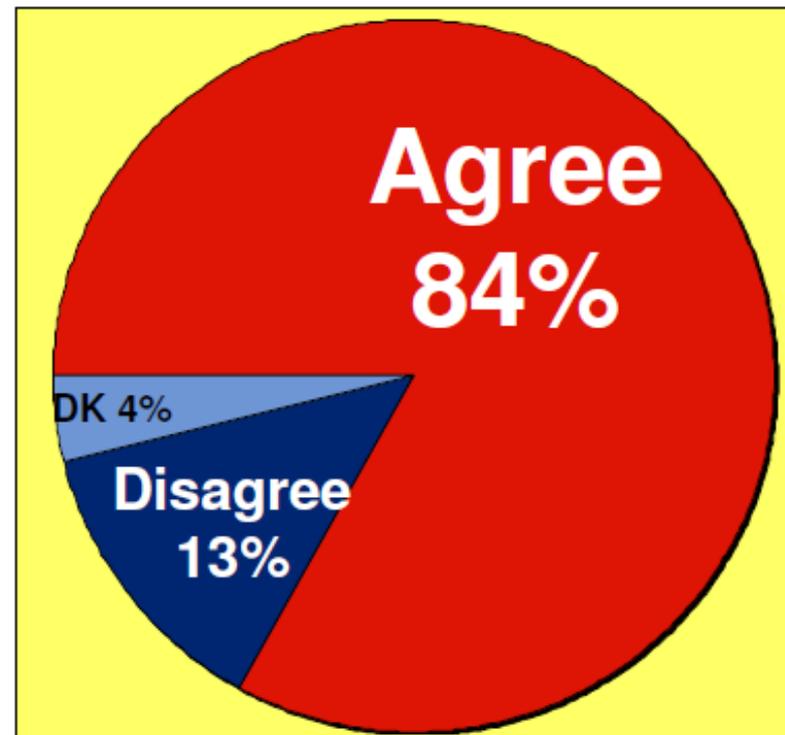
American Dream

For the first time in our history, most Americans don't believe their kids will have the same opportunities they had to lead a happy, healthy, and prosperous a life. When Americans no longer believe in the American Dream, it's time to reclaim our heritage. *Our parents and grandparents knew that if they worked hard and played by the rules, their kids could expect a shot at a home, a college education, and the opportunity to develop their gifts to the best of their abilities. But in the last 10 years, the middle class has been shrinking as CEO salaries and bonuses have skyrocketed. One out of five kids in this country is born into poverty, and working and middle class Americans are losing their jobs and homes at record rates. With unemployment above 25% among young people, whole generations of high school and college graduates are getting shut of the job market. America has always risen to the challenge of ensuring a brighter future for our children. It's time we rise to that challenge again.*



Ensuring a Better Tomorrow

If we want to ensure that the next generation is healthier than this one, if we want to leave our children better off than our parents left us, we cannot wait any longer. We have to act now.





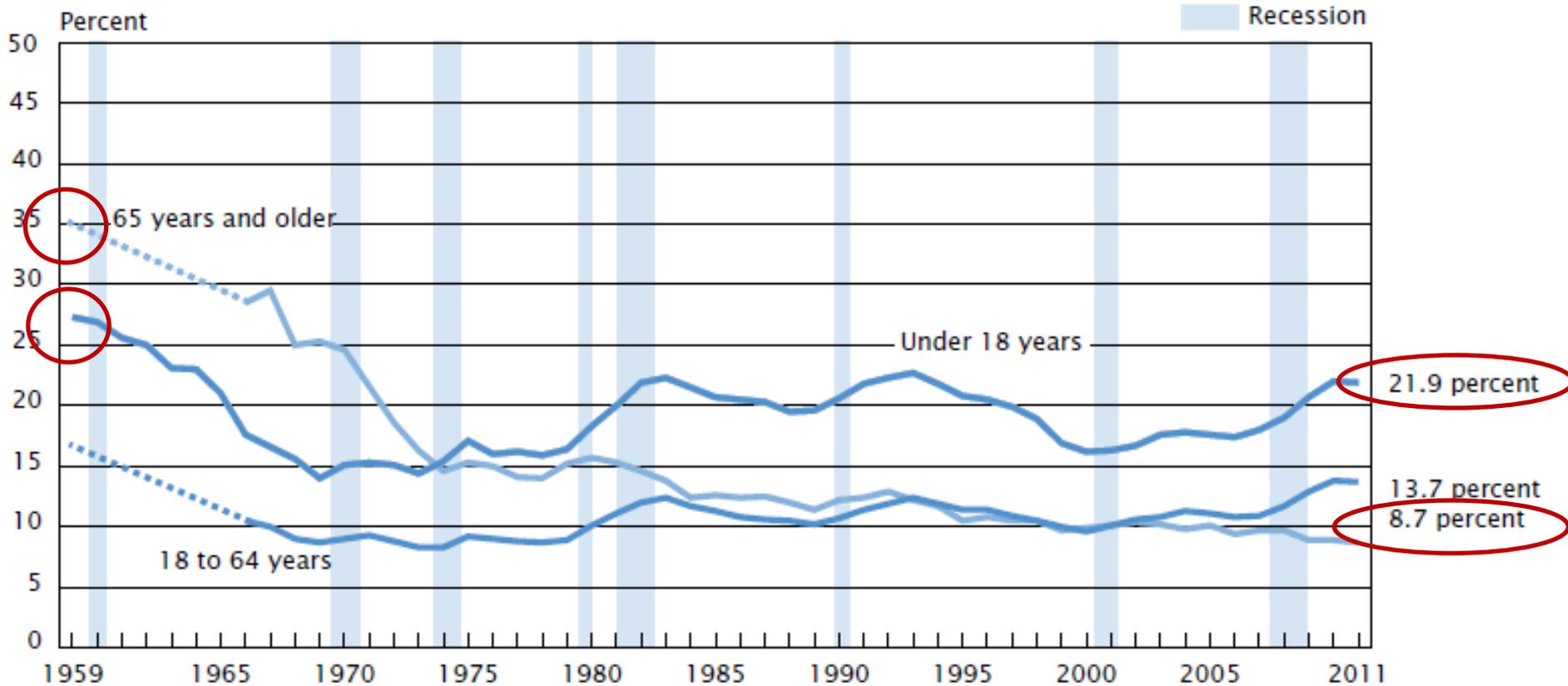
CALL TO ACTION - CHILDREN FACE REAL CHALLENGES

- **More than 1 in 5 in poverty**
- **1 in 5 live with hunger**
- **6.3 million live with an unemployed parent**
- **8 million affected by foreclosures**





POVERTY RATES BY AGE: 1959 TO 2011



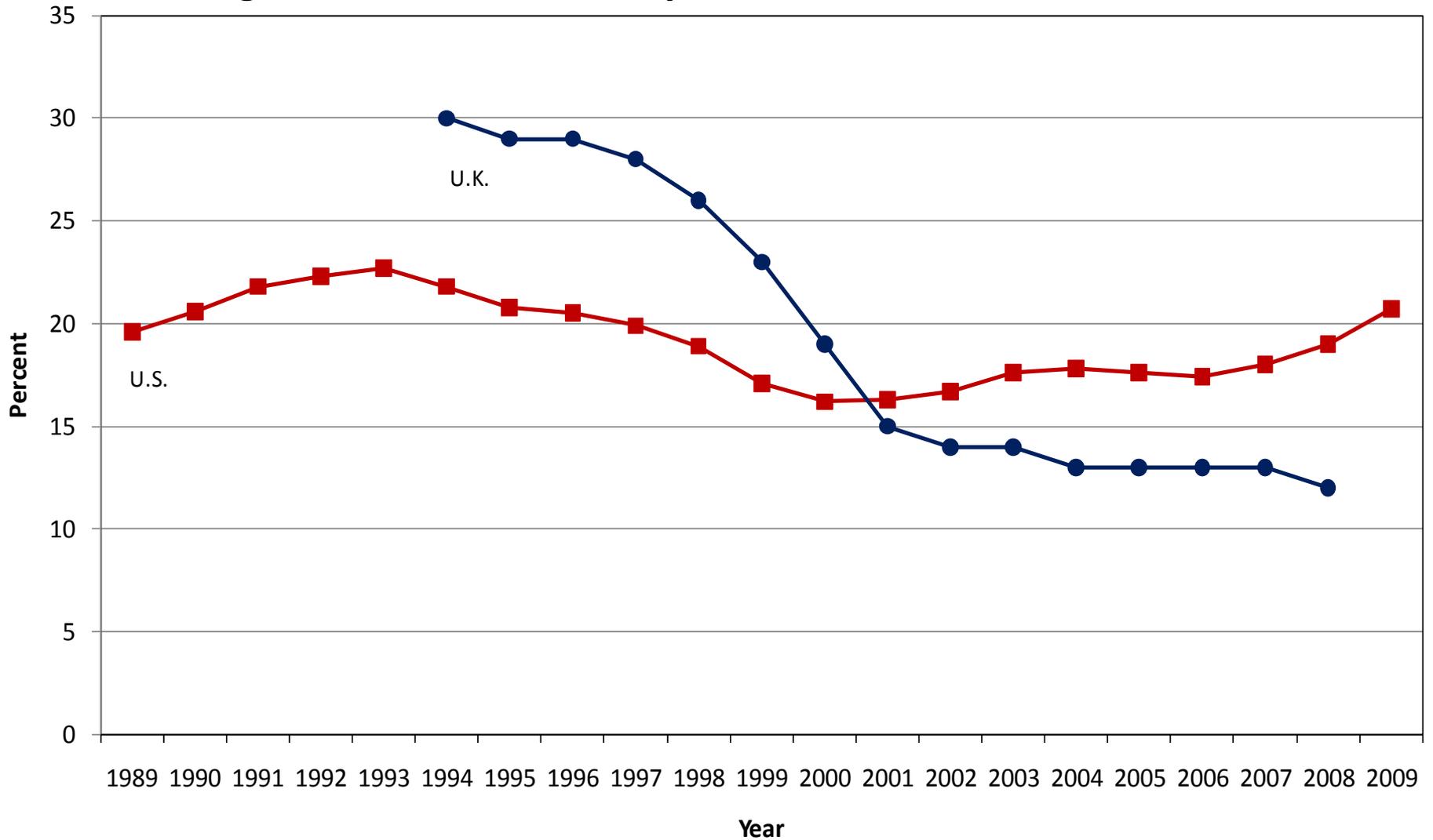
Note: The data points are placed at the midpoints of the respective years. For information on recessions, see Appendix A. Data for people aged 18 to 64 and 65 and older are not available from 1960 to 1965.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Current Population Survey, 1960 to 2012 Annual Social and Economic Supplements.

Under 18: 27% to 22%

Over 65: 35% to 9%

Figure 1: Absolute Poverty in the U.S. & U.K. 1989–2009



■ U.S.: Percent all persons under 18 years below official US Poverty Line, 1989-2009 (about 35 percent of median income in 2000)

● U.K.: Percent of U.K. children below the absolute poverty threshold, 1989-2008 (about 60 percent of median income in 1998-99)



NATIONAL AGENDA

<u>Issue</u>	<u>Result</u>	<u>Intensity</u>
Cut Child Poverty In Half:	82-13%	68%
Extend Child Tax Credits:	81-12%	69%
Extend CHIP:	83-13%	61%
Adopt a Children's Budget:	66-22%	51%
Adopt Bipartisan Children's Commission:	78-15%	62%



WHAT CAN YOU DO?

-Cosponsor the Children's Commission Bill, soon to be introduced by Senator Bennet:

Staff Contact: Roger Low – roger_low@bennet.senate.gov

-Cosponsor the Children's Budget Act, soon to be introduced by Senator Menendez

-Support the Children's Budget Act amendment to the Senate Budget Resolution



THANK YOU!

Bruce Lesley

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